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BOOK REVIEWS

The Sexual Life of the Child. By DR. ALBERT MALL. Translated from the German by DR. EDEN PAUL with an introduction by EDWARD L. THORNDIKE. New York: Macmillan, 1912. Pp. 339.

This is the most valuable and least dangerous treatment of this question that has come to the notice of the present writer. It is written by one who has studied the question both as a scientist and as a practicing physician frequently consulted regarding sexual matters, and yet who is never led by his specialism or by scientific theories to abandon his common-sense or to regard the occasional as the usual. The treatment of all topics seems coarsely frank as compared with most other books on this subject which nearly always leave some things to be inferred, yet it is this treatment which leaves nothing for the imagination to do, together with the fact that only essential facts are given regarding individual cases, that makes the book unattractive to those who gratify a low form of curiosity by reading of sex matters.

The topics treated are a historical view of the subject, a description of the reproductive organs, processes, and impulses, their differentiation in childhood and relation to other physical and psychical processes, the pathology, etiology, and diagnosis of sexual manifestations, the importance of the sexual life of the child, the child as an object of sexual practices, and finally an extended treatment of sexual education.

He makes some use of statistical studies but since such studies are not extensive, are often from selected cases and regarding matters concerning which there is much deception, he depends much upon general scientific principles, and common-sense, assisted by such facts as are available from observation, by himself and others, in deciding as to what is normal and what is abnormal.

He believes in the enlightenment of children regarding sex matters but thinks that the school should confine itself chiefly to general biological principles while personal instruction should be given by the mother if practicable. He thinks, however, that warning regarding venereal infection may be given in the last year of elementary schools.

E. A. KIRKPATRICK

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A Study of the Short-Story. By HENRY S. CANBY. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1913.

If one can follow the suggestion made by Mr. Canby, in his preface to an earlier work¹ on the same subject, and "put aside, at least temporarily, any

¹ *The Short-Story in English.* Henry Holt & Co., 1909.